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VOL. 2

CALGARY, MAY 24, 1918

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BLESSINGS

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friend,
A cheerful home, a heart of deep con-
tent,
A sunny garden spot to dig and tend.
More blest is he who adds to these the
joy
Of work that leads him to his Heart's
Desire,
A little child to prattle at his gate,
A dear gray head to crown his evening
fire.

—“The Farmer's Wife.”

* * *

“If farmers are to be Government-
controlled, the Government should be
farmer-controlled.”

“FOR MEN OF VISION”

“Give us men to match our mountains,
Give us men to match our plains,
Men with empires in their thinking,
And new eras in their brain.”
“God, give us men, a time like this demands,
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith,
and willing hands.”

—REV. W. IVENS, of Winnipeg, at Labor
Meeting, Calgary.

* * *

“Hereditary bondmen! Know ye not
who would be free themselves must strike
the blow?” —LORD BYRON.

* * *

“I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered
virtue, that never sallies out and sees her
adversary, but slinks out of the race,
where that immortal garland is to be run
for without dust and heat.”

—JOHN MILTON.

THE ABOLITION OF PATRONAGE

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should receive a salary of \$6,000 a year
and also a full pension, which has been
granted to him? Is it fair or just that
Col. Bradbury, former M.P. for Selkirk,
Manitoba, but now a Senator, who only
went to England, should have exacted
from the Pensions Board a pension for
the rest of his life? If my hon. friend
(Hon. A. K. Maclean), has the same
honesty of purpose which he had during
the many years I had the honor of being
his friend, he will see that these two
pensions are wiped off the books of
Canada.—Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, in
the House of Commons, Ottawa.

* * *

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CURRENT HISTORY

DR. CLARK'S PREDICAMENT

Dr. M. Clark in the course of the budget debate made a speech. The Doctor has done this regularly in every budget debate since he entered Parliament but the Doctor must have found himself in peculiar company this time. Michael, of course, now claims that the Liberals have abandoned Free Trade and he even seems to think that he can get more out of the Tories than he ever did out of the Grits. Now let us reason this out for a minute. In our humble opinion the Grits betrayed the country on the tariff question. They did not by any means give all they promised. They failed in part on account of their own inward cussedness and also because the people in 1911 defeated them. The only credit that old man Laurier has on this account is that he went to defeat in the question of lowering the tariff.

How Are the Mighty Fallen

How about the Tories? If the Grits are hopeless the Tories are doubly damned and downed on that question. They have with them now Arthur Sifton and N. W. Rowell, two of the most pronounced Tory Protectionists in the Ex-Liberal party. A few days before Clark made his speech, Cockshutt, the patriot, the high tariff junker, read the riot act to the party in regard to the duty on agricultural implements and insisted that a bargain existed between the East and the Western grain growers in regard to the tariff.

This is only a sample of the company Dr. Clark is keeping now. He is a lonely figure—not quite bad enough to be taken into the full confidence of the Unionist party and yet standing at the threshold and looking in—he cannot support Laurier, for really Laurier did not pay him a sufficient meed of praise in the old days. He lauds Borden and praises Meighen, condones the franchise and apologizes for the misfits—supports the protectionists and condemns their ideas. Such is Red Michael, the man who at one time gave promise of leading a Western wing of the Liberal party in Canada.

A DAMP SQUIB

Here's another tragedy. Thomas Alexander Crerar! Crerar was a Radical of the old school. He was a believer in land value taxation—a free trader from the back end of beyond. In Parliament he has fallen as flat as a firefly tramped by an elephant. No word from him of

his old ideas—no sign of his influence in the latest budget. An office chair and a salary he no doubt retains but he must have lost the self respect of the Grain Growers. But the blessed Grain Growers, where are they? That is the rub, where are they? They met a few days ago—at least that section of Grain Growers represented by the Alberta Farmers, and said: "Anything the Government does is right. It must be right or they would not do it. Will all present remove their hats while we sing:

"Borden Uber Alles."

When you have the agricultural leaders of the country ready to eat out of the hands of the Government—ready to sell their copyright for a mess of garbage labelled, a cabinet minister's job it's time to look around for new radical forces in the Dominion.

The most tragic thing of all is the Grain Growers' Guide. It's a perfectly tame little journal now—guaranteed not to ravel or rip down at the heels—but it has a mild restrain and kultured manner which puts it in a class by itself. If you want to read a real well-behaved hand organ, read the Grain Growers Guide. I understand they intend henceforth to devote themselves most strictly to the productive end of agriculture leaving the economic field largely alone. Loud cheers.

IS THE GOVERNMENT INFALLIBLE?

Great Scott! I may get a fine of \$5,000 for writing this but still—we should worry! But about that censorship, here's what the Manchester Guardian says of it:

"Under such ukases it will be possible for the Government to suppress any opinion distasteful to it or any fact disagreeable to it. The public will be allowed to know and, so far as the Government is able to control it, to think only what happens to suit the purpose of the small group of individuals who at the time being are masters of the machine of state. Such an arrangement could perhaps be defended if Governments never were ignorant and never made mistakes, and if they never developed a corporate or individual interest of their own which might conflict with the interest of the nation. We know from our own experience that neither of these assumptions can be made. There is no reason to doubt that human nature is fallible with Canadian Ministers as with Imperial Ministers. What we have been taught is that one of the worst

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enemies of the efficient conduct of the war has been the censorship, compulsory and voluntary. In Canada, far from learning the lesson, they are deliberately intensifying the evil of the censorship."

THE (H)UN-BIASED HERALD

It is interesting to note how little we hear of the things which it is not considered advantageous for us to hear insofar as the public utterances of public men are concerned. If some non-descript Englishman, having no standing whatever save and except he bear the name of lord, gives utterance to a suggestion that England is about to abandon her free trade policy, the Herald of this city will publish the news with great gusto. If, however, a man worth while in the affairs of England, makes a statement to the contrary effect, the Herald treats it with thunders of silence. On March 22nd, of this year, Mr. Asquith, speaking at Derby, said:

"How is this debt going to be met? It could be met in one way only, by increasing the national annual wealth. It was just here that we might come to the dividing line. This was a double dagger to be avoided. On the one side the danger of a return to artificial systems of Protection (Cheers) and on the other side the danger of Excessive trust in State supervision and control (Cheers). Liberals must not be ashamed to have in their minds and on their lips what many people in these days regarded as an outworn formula—free trade. (Cheers). It was quite true the war would bring about vast changes in the industrial and economic structure of the world. But he knew of nothing in the experience of the war which would lead us for a moment to doubt that in a country circumstanced like ours Free Trade in its largest and most general sense would be at least as necessary after the war as it was before. (Prolonged cheers)."

There is not much in this to suggest the abandonment by England of that policy of freedom which has enabled her so well to stand four square to every wind that passes in these stirring times that stir not only the souls of men, but of all nations.

* * *

A MEMBER'S PROTEST

"It is my belief that Col. Labatt is either in receipt of his pension by virtue of misrepresentations, or undue favor through powerful influence, as it is clear he is not suffering from total disability at all. I warn you, as a prominent member of the Cabinet, that it will result in destroying our influence as a Government, because such injustice will not be tolerated by the people."—H. H. Stevens, M.P., Vancouver Centre, to N. W. Rowell, Chairman of Special Pensions Committee.

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ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings." — Ruskin.

TOO LATE TO PROTEST The farmers throughout Canada, and particularly those of Ontario, the loyal province, are protesting against the application of the Military Service Act. It is only a few short months since these farmers rushed to the polls and endorsed the very act they now protest against with a tremendous vote.

What did the farmer think when he voted? Did he suppose that he was going to enjoy a special privilege when men were so urgently needed; did he believe the politicians who promised exemptions? We do not think that the farmers would vote someone else into the trenches, while they themselves were allowed to go free. It is more likely that the matter was not given the serious attention which it demanded, and now when the act is being applied, its full significance is apparent, and seemingly objectionable.

But it is much too late now to see the point. We must surely obey the law so freely endorsed by the farmers themselves. The attitude of the U.F.A. executive towards this question would seem to be based on this viewpoint. It refuses to take action against the government in respect to an act which that government has just been elected to enforce. The U.F.A. leaders throw this matter back upon both the government and the farmers who supported it, and says that the government must know the situation, and are taking the responsibility.

The lesson here is for the farmers. They must think before they leap, and protest before, not after, the election.

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

We are beginning to look at matters now from the standpoint of the child. The child wins our sympathy through its helplessness, and this with the influence of mother love, now that women have begun to take a hand in public affairs, may mean the beginning of a new civilization which will be based on human rather than commercial values.

The unnecessary suffering and the high death rate among children has led to certain activities along lines which may lead at least to partial amelioration. The chief feature of the movement toward child welfare so far has been the attempt to interest the public, and make it alive to the situation. The chief means of accomplishing this has been the Baby Welfare week. Throughout a certain week in the year lectures are given by experts, by doctors, teachers and mothers, which are not only of practical value to those who have children under their care, but are also of the nature of public education.

This organization cannot be too highly spoken of, its work is urgently necessary and of fundamental importance. Through its efforts we hope soon to see both our governments and the general public take as keen an interest in the welfare of children as is taken in politics, in live-stock or business.

* * *

MRS. HAROLD RILEY RAISES IMPORTANT QUESTIONS The address given by Mrs. Harold Riley during Baby Welfare week was

perhaps the most to the point of any given, inasmuch as it aimed at fundamentals. The need of adequate mothers' pensions and a physical standard of efficiency demanded of parents by the State, were advocated by Mrs. Riley. The questions underlying these two points are of first importance to any adequate treatment of the child problems.

Implied in these are the economic conditions which largely determine the physical fitness of the parents and child, decides the community in which the child will grow up, and also governs the question of higher education.

That people with mental or physical diseases of a transmissible nature are allowed to marry and have children is nothing short of criminal. This is a matter of social interest, and society which eventually must provide for such children of diseased parents, and which endangers itself and impairs its very existence by breeding disease, must take steps to protect itself. This is im-

perative in the interests of the common good, and to say the least every prospective parent should be able to present a certificate of health.

But to stop at this would be scarcely to begin. Healthy environment, mentally, morally and physically is essential to the highest development of the child. Pursuing these environmental requirements in all their ramifications, it will be seen that they all depend upon, and are conditioned by the economic system under which we live, and while mothers' pensions or State aid points towards a solution, it would not be adequate.

This individualistic, profiteering, competitive, brutal system will have to be changed. Under it children cannot be well born, people cannot live out their natural lives. It is a "pain economy," a murder economy.

May not the cries of many children reach the heart of the world, and be much more potent than argument in laying the foundation of a new type of civilization, which shall exist for an "abundant life" rather than for superfluous profits?

* * *

THE PLEASURE TRIP OF THE PREMIERS. It has been announced that the premiers of the provinces are about to take a trip to Europe in the near future. The purpose of this visit is not known to the public, and it is not unlikely that the premiers know as little about what they are going over there for as anyone else. It will be a nice holiday trip, and will cost many thousands of dollars.

This is a time for thrift, a time for saving public money, and for making every man do some useful work. Greater production is the cry of the Allies; more men for the front is the appeal of Sir Robert Borden, and men are being fined and imprisoned for engaging themselves in non-productive labor.

Not only so, but our finances need to be hoarded, not squandered on holiday trips for premiers. At the present moment, the working people of this country are being taxed to the limit. Every old lady in the Dominion must pay a tax on every cup of tea, while farmers are bled by Canadian manufacturers. This is no time for European tours.

Now, the premiers are absolutely useless in France or Britain; they are not going to put on the uniform, unless they do so in order that the boys may have to salute them. Why, then, spend money by freightling these gentlemen across the Atlantic? Better put them in the hay and harvest fields.

The Alberta Non-Partisan

If the Province of Alberta can afford to spend several thousand dollars on a pleasure scheme of this character, why not spend that sum in giving a summer trip to cripple heroes? This would be more in keeping with the spirit of the times. We are opposed to the premiers' trip.

* * *

WHY THIS DISCRIMINATION? If a man is found engaged in non-productive

labor, we understand he is in danger of being arrested. And it would seem that there are a great many running this danger in the cities of Canada at the present moment.

People are doing non-productive work when engaged in a competitive business. If all the duplications in business were done away, we would have no shortage of men. But this great factor is overlooked by those instructed to enforce the law. But whenever a poor laboring individual is found organizing the workers or doing something of that sort, he is arrested and fined for being engaged in non-productive work.

A short time ago a Russian named Ruttka was arrested in Calgary, imprisoned for some time, then discharged, tried, and fined \$10 and costs for being employed in non-productive work. He had been organizing the Federal Workers' Union.

But take another case. A man who demanded a guarantee before he came to Calgary, for several weeks has been occupied in defaming Calgarians, and stirring up strife. A band of soldiers, number about three hundred, were compelled, in order to save their good names, to call upon the gentleman and make him swallow his charges in utter ignominy. Is this kind of thing passed as productive labor? Many hours of the people's time are being taken up, while they should be working in their gardens, or doing some other useful work, yet this damogue has not been arrested. Why arrest Ruttka and pass up the other?

* * *

ANOTHER COMPARISON The Hudson's Bay Company defied "majesty of the

Law" by keeping its store open on Wednesday afternoon. This wealthy company which does everything in its power to prohibit labor organization deliberately defied the law sanctioned by the people of Calgary and placed upon the statute books. It goes even further. It puts out as a bait to attract the public a special afternoon sale, thus adding insult to injury.

In due course the company is brought into court on the above

charge, Messrs. Lougheed & Bennett, who have both been law-makers, aid the company to break this law by defending them. The result is that five dollars and costs is the fine imposed on this company, while Ruttka was fined ten dollars for a less serious offence. Again, we ask, Why this discrimination?

* * *

A FAVORITE PASTIME The "Made-in-Germany" cry indulged in by our

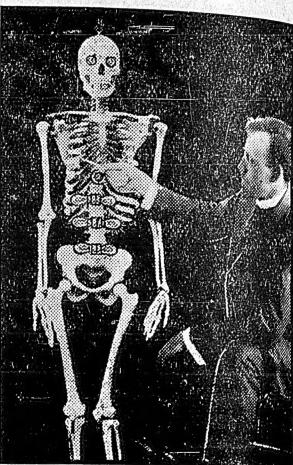
free and enlightened Press against anything that runs counter to their inherited and constitutional bias is becoming somewhat tiresome. "If you scratch an ardent Socialist you usually find a pro-German underneath," is the latest oracle handed down by an Editorial writer in the Toronto "Saturday Night."

This gentleman is evidently blissfully unconscious of the great social forces that are operating in every country of the world at the present time and driving the respective governments slowly but surely in the direction of socialism.

Both France and Britain have several avowed socialists occupying positions in their governments, but it would be manifestly absurd to say that they are pro-German. It would be just as logical to claim that our manufacturer champions of the tariff in Toronto are permeated with the German Kulture of Protectionism.

The same writer clasps Samuel Gompers to his bosom and exhorts Canadian Labor to do likewise. Truly it is a touching and inspiring spectacle to Labor to contemplate this newly awakened interest in their welfare manifested by such an influential and eminently respectable journal as the Toronto "Saturday Night."

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They have placed small switches along the spine where the nerves branch out to the different organs. By turning one of these switches so that a very small amount of current goes to the light which represents the organ which is diseased, it causes the light to burn very dimly. This illustrates the effect on any part of the body when the nerve force, which comes from the brain, is obstructed in any way. By adjusting the spine, or, in this instance, turning the switch over a notch to supply more current, the light begins to grow brighter again. In order to show what happens when a nerve is so pinched that the nerve cannot pass at all, the switch is closed completely, extinguishing the light, which in our body would mean total paralysis.

These switches work somewhat on the principal feature of the familiar high and low light that burns brightly in one position of the switch and low in another. There are many switches, each working independently of the other. For instance, the light representing the heart may be burning brightly, but the one representing the stomach may be exceedingly dim, thus illustrating the fact that the current leading to one vital organ may be exceedingly strong, while the current leading to another may be very weak.

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Our Parliamentary Letter

From Our Special Correspondent

Our Correspondent at Ottawa is writing a weekly letter, and we publish both because they are a complete record and a splendid resume of the work accomplished and the problems discussed in the House. These letters will be continued to the close of the session and should be of absorbing interest to our readers.

Ottawa, May 11th, 1918

The debate on the budget still continues its somewhat weary way and doubtless every mail conveys vast bundles of Hansards to numerous faithful followers in distant constituencies containing the brilliant oratorical effusions of their respective members.

On Friday, May 3rd, Mr. Bristol, a Tory member for Toronto, entered into an elaborate defense of his friend Sir Joseph Flavelle, of whose worth and integrity he spoke with fervour and enthusiasm. Having defended Sir Joseph Flavelle, he set out to attack the farmers of Canada whom he pictured as living in wanton leisure and spending winters of ease in Los Angeles. With glib flippancy he gave voice to a rumor that the Western farmers "were erecting gymnasiums in their barns, because manual labor was a thing of the past." This same progressive voice also expressed its horror at the excess profits tax which he declared was driving capital out of the country. He was answered almost immediately and very capably by Mr. Maharg of Swift Current, the President of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers, who set him right on many of his facts and completely refuted the picture of a Western farmer as a man of leisure. Mr. Maharg agreed with Mr. Redman in his criticism of the inadequacy of the tax on large incomes but he also wanted to see the income tax applied to smaller incomes. He emphasized the case for the abolition of the duty on agriculture implements as a help in greater production and he declared that he had no sympathy with the War Times Election Act. In his view the people of the west were prepared to give the Union Government every assistance and have suspended the agitation for economic changes but their economic views are still firmly held and he and his friends were parties to no bargain that they knew of whereby the tariff was not made a political question till the war was over.

On Monday when the debate was resumed, Sir Sam Hughes was the star performer. As usual he had nothing much to say but indulged in long reminiscences of his own martial exploits and intellectual triumphs. Sir Sam's pet aversion is probably Sir Robert Borden and he never loses an opportunity of taking a shot at the Premier. His affection for Sir Thomas White is not of a notable character and he read out long passages from the Canadian Courier pointing out that Sir Thomas had betrayed the interests of the Canadian people to certain United States financiers. Mr. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, came in for some bitter sarcasm and certainly it is hard to see

what useful function the Department of Publicity and the War Lecture Bureau are performing. Nor has he a high opinion of the possibilities of the National Service Board and prophesies its failure. But the gravest of Sir Sam's charges came when he pointed out that the brokers of this country secured out of the last Victory Loan at least five million dollars in commissions and that our methods in raising money were absurd compared with those adopted in the United States.

Following him Mr. Ross and Mr. Devlin of the Opposition attacked the Government. Mr. Ross created some amusement by reading letters addressed by Mr. Crothers, the Minister of Labor, to three poor cobblers in Chatham, Ont., who had ventured to raise the price of shoe repairs. Mr. Crothers threatened them with prosecution for violation of the Combines Act and the House was amused to think that these were the only victims that he had been able to discover.

Mr. Crothers' defence of this heroic performance was not inspiring. Later on in the day Dr. Edwards of Frontenac made the usual dull Orange speech which pours forth from the shallow minds of too many Ontario members, and Mr. Knox of Prince Albert gave the point of view of a radical Saskatchewan grain grower who supported Union but reserved the right of independent judgment. On Tuesday, May 8th, the debate brightened considerably. After Mr. J. A. Campbell had dilated amiably on the gigantic national resources of the Le Pas and Hudson Bay district and Mr. Hocken, the editor of the Orange Sentinel, had indulged in some frothy and meaningless vituperation of Quebec, the Hon. Mr. Lemieux rose to his feet. An experienced observer who has lately had the opportunity of hearing a series of debates in the Senate and Congress at Washington and in the House of Commons here told the writer that in his opinion Mr. Lemieux was the best parliamentary orator in all three assemblies and his speech last Tuesday certainly seemed to confirm this high reputation. He made the retort courteous to Mr. Hocken and in the course of an extremely interesting speech, exposed many of the sins of omission and commission of the Government. He told of the early enthusiasm of the French Canadians for the war and gave a realistic history of the manner in which that enthusiasm was successfully damped in order to make Quebec unpopular with the rest of Canada and render Sir Wilfrid's return to power impossible. He declared that Jack Canuck and Jeanne Baptiste were alike against conscription but that Jack Canuck in the shape of the Ontario farmer was told that he would never be conscripted as the measure was destined solely for Quebec. The handclasp given to the Ontario farmers, said Mr. Lemieux, was nothing less than the handcuff, and the Ontario farmers know it today. By the irony of fate, it is deputations of angry Ontario farmers who are now descending upon the capital to protest fiercely against the removal of the exemptions for young agriculturalists between 20 and 23.

Mr. Lemieux made a spirited protest against the pensions given to Lieut.-Col. Labatt, who is a brother-in-law of Mr. J. D. Reid, and to Col. G. Bradbury, now Senator for Manitoba. Lieut.-Col. Labatt is undoubtedly in bad health but there seemed no reason why he should have received a full disability pension of \$2,500 and at the same time be holding a very important Government post as Pension Commissioner worth \$5,000. Senator Bradbury's case is little better. He raised a battalion and took it overseas. He was in France for two weeks but all his real fighting has been done on the political battlefields of Manitoba. For this he may have been entitled to a Senatorship worth \$2,500 a year and requisites but it does not entitle him to a military pension of \$780 per annum which he claims to be grossly inadequate. Col. Labatt's resignation is now announced and in view of the fact that the country is full of soldiers complaining of the inadequacy of their pensions, his retirement is timely.

Following Mr. Lemieux came Dr. Michael Clark, who narrated with glee the sad results of his failure to educate the old Liberal party in the principles of free trade. He declared his strong support of the Union Government but inconsistently claimed the right of independent speech. He criticised the inadequacy of the income tax pointing out that two thousand dollars taxation upon ten thousand dollars' worth of tea which the poor use freely was a harsh levy compared with the \$322 levied upon incomes of ten thousand dollars. His views upon the trade question were absolutely unchanged and in the future days would be sternly voiced. Following Dr. Clark, a series of French Canadian members voiced the views of their compatriots and Mr. Davis and Mr. Henders spoke as Western progressives in favor of lower tariffs. On Wednesday Mr. Oscar Gladu, who is one of the most radical of the French members, attacked the Government violently and was called to order by the Speaker, for declaring that the War Times Election Act was an outrageous and scandalous measure. He accepted the ruling of the Speaker and paid him the pretty compliment of saying that: "At least we owe to the War Times Election Act the great privilege and the greater honor of retaining your services as presiding officer of this House." Col. J. A. Currie, the valiant Orange warrior from Simcoe, made a fierce protectionist address, denouncing all ideas of economic freedom, demanding an increase of ten per cent. in the tariff duties and adding a fulsome laudation of Lord Shaughnessy and the C.P.R. Col. Currie has done good service in almost finally convincing the Western Unionist Liberals of the impossibility of prolonged co-operation with Ontario Toryism. The budget debate was concluded by a long speech in French by Mr. D. A. Lafontaine, who is one of the few surviving "characters" in Canadian politics.

Friday, May 10th, was devoted to a consideration of the Civil Service Act which is to take the balance of the Civil Service out of politics. There was general support for the measure on both sides of the House except for some reactionaries who hated to be shorn of their precious prerogatives of giving petty appointments to the faithful. Mr. Nickle of Kingston probably voiced a popular



The Alberta Non-Partisan

feeling that too much power should not be left in the hands of bureaucratic Deputy Ministers and quoted an amusing case of their activities.

The Government, as usual, have delayed the thorny question of the railways till the last but the House is not tired and is thirsty for blood and it is to be hoped that there will be a stern examination of the whole history of the country's transactions with the various gangs of railway pirates. Mr. Richardson of Winnipeg has still to conclude the interesting exposures which he began in the budget debate. Sir Robert Borden has promised a further day on the question of titles and there is a decided feeling in the House that before he goes overseas to the Imperial Conference there should be a frank discussion on the attitude of Canada towards the various Imperial problems. The improvement in Quebec's war effort still continues. Men are coming in freely both under the draft and by voluntary enlistment. The clergy are preaching crusading sermons in favor of the Allied cause and the soldiers are being feted by their townsfolk. If General Mewburn and his colleagues had a spark of imagination they would take the tide as it flows and by a generous gesture heal all past sores and fissures, by allowing French recruits to form a special brigade to be called the Laurier Legion with regiments named after French Canadian heroes such as Dollard and Montcalm, just as the British naval battalions were named after famous British admirals, but it is possibly too much to expect this of a Government of which many members are deeply interested in keeping alive racial feuds.

Ottawa, May 17, 1918.

On May 11th, the Government began by announcing the withdrawal of two proposals which were utterly impossible and would have excited keen opposition. The first was a motion to allow the Speaker to exercise a censorship over Hansard reports. The censorship regulations themselves are bad enough but it is fundamentally reactionary to destroy the value of what is after all the official record of the proceedings of our Parliaments. In the event of its being adopted, how could future historians and students put any reliance upon Canadian Hansards? The other abandonment was of the bill to give the Government temporary control of all imports and exports. In practice, this control would have been administered by the War Trade Board which is made up largely of keen exponents of high protectionism and it was obvious that the Western members were ready to join the opposition in resisting such a retrograde step. That the Government should even dare to suggest these two fundamental violations of democratic right is not proof of a wide prevalence of progressive ideas in their ranks.

The Civil Service Act amendment which proposes to take the balance of the Civil Service out of politics and is a fulfilment of lofty pledges by numerous ministers and candidates at the last election was then discussed in committee, clause by clause. The great bulk of intelligent opinion in the House was obviously in its favor but there was a certain reactionary element chiefly from Ontario who were loathe to see the petty spoils of patronage snatched from

their hands. Mr. Nickle made a good point when he uttered a warning against allowing the whole control of the Civil Service to slip into the hands of the centralised bureaucracy at Ottawa and he caused considerable amusement by reciting letters exposing strange antics of a Deputy Minister in regard to one appointment. Mr. Hocken, the Orange champion from Toronto, wanted a list published every year of the relationship of any appointees to the Civil Service with members of Parliament or the Senate, but this idea was negative. Many members complained of the inadequacy of the wages and salaries paid in the lower branches of the Service and it is clearly proven that the Government is far from being a model employer.

Monday was a continuation of the Civil Service debate with criticisms and praise freely mixed. There were attempts to hang the bill up but Ministers were resolute in their determination to force it through and its passing into law is practically assured. Tuesday saw strange scenes in Ottawa. Since the Government passed amendments to the Military Service Act, cancelling all exemptions for young men between 20 and 23 there has been vast indignation in rural Ontario. About December 1st, last Fall, when election agents reported that rural Ontario was likely to share Sir Wilfrid Laurier's view of the inadvisability of conscription, it was hastily agreed to exempt all farmers and rural Ontario's vote was thereby secured for the Union Government. They were told on all sides that conscription was planned for the benefit of Quebec but conscription with exemptions to agriculturists did not raise the necessary men and now that it has been altered to affect the Ontario farmers, they realize that they were grossly deceived and loud and long have been their wailings. When protests by letter to Ministers and Members were of no avail, they organized a vast delegation of two thousand strong which invaded Ottawa. They were joined there by a smaller delegation from Quebec. Premier Borden, with Mr. Crerar, General Mewburn and Mr. Rowell, met them in the Russell theatre where, in answer to their demands for fulfilment of the election pledges, the Premier firmly declared that there could be no reconsideration. He made what may be called a strong speech but his appeals to their patriotism did not succeed in allaying the farmers' rage. They adjourned to another hall and proceeded with the help of that distinguished journalist, Mr. Arthur Hawkes, to draw up a bill of rights protesting against the treachery of the Government and reciting its numerous misdeeds. Certain French members addressed them but they would have been well advised to stay away and leave Ontario to handle its own troubles. In the evening the farmers formed into column and marched up to the Victoria Museum where Parliament is sitting. They presented a demand to be heard on the floor of the House, maintaining that they had as much right as Mr. Samuel Gompers, but the Government, acting through Speaker Rhodes, declined to accede to their request on the ground that the case had already been heard.

They again adjourned to their meeting hall and after passing further resolutions agreed before starting for their homes to leave a strong contingent behind to press their case. They

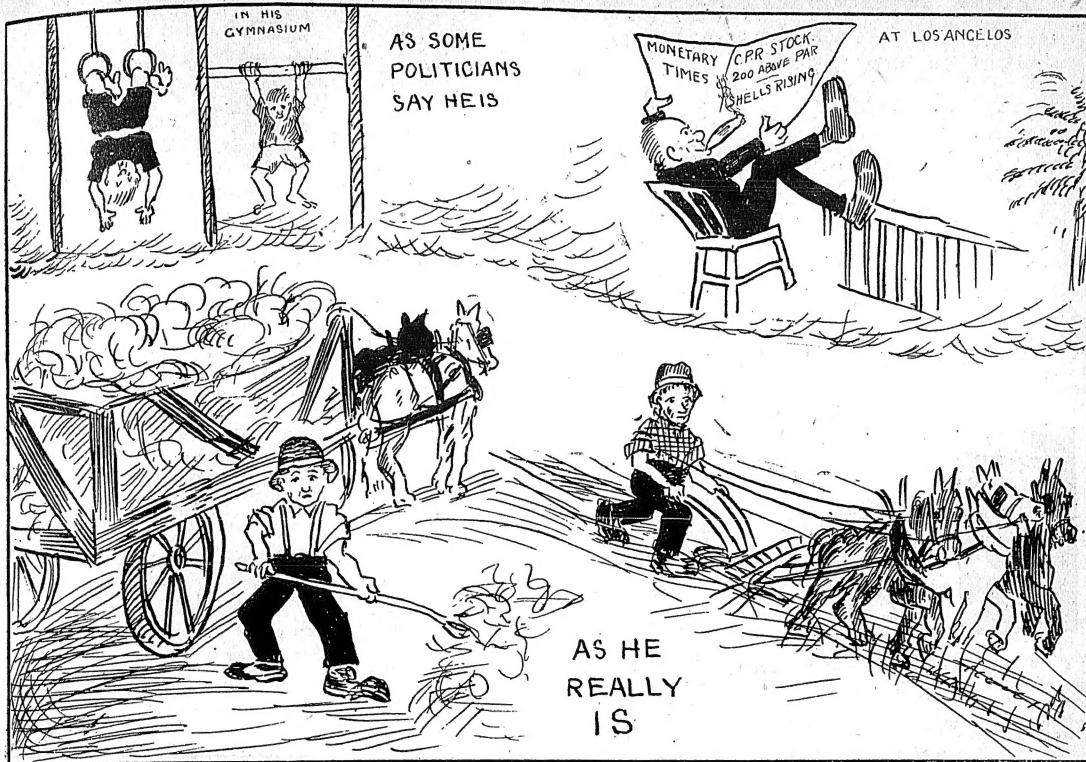
have now proceeded to lay their grievances by petition before the Governor-General. There is no doubt that the Government handled the irate farmers with very little tact and skill. If they had exercised any imagination and intelligence they could have sent this body of men away, if not pleased, at least soothed and partially reconciled. But they have succeeded in creating a very hostile feeling among an element which voted largely for them on December 17th. The chief lack of Canada is real leadership and intelligent guidance and Premier Borden is devoid of the capacity of rising to the occasion. There is one obvious lesson for the Ontario farmers, namely, to abandon all faith in the promises of politicians of either party. Let them create their own organizations and select their own members and they shall have less chance in the future of being deceived.

The same day Mr. duTremblay pleaded with Sir Robert Borden, now that war enthusiasm was spreading in Quebec and many recruits were coming in, to allow a French-Canadian brigade to be organized. Sir Robert promised to give the proposal every consideration but elaborated several military difficulties. If a French-Canadian brigade had been organized in 1914, Canadian political history would have been vastly different and it is not too late to repair the error now. Nothing would strike the keen imagination of the French Canadian people so much as this privilege.

In the evening Mr. W. F. Maclean, editor of the *Toronto World*, delivered a somewhat belated budget speech in which he propounded some amazingly radical views. Mr. Maclean is an eccentric character but he is far from being reactionary and has steadily upheld several progressive causes. He is a strong opponent of Imperial Federation and warned Sir Robert Borden against being enmeshed in any of the snares which the Round Table and other Imperialist promoters will lay for him at the forthcoming Conference. He is in favor of complete nationalisation of all railways, telegraphs and telephones and wants also a national banking system. He realised that a new orientation in Anglo-Saxon politics has come with the entrance of the United States into the war and is willing to admit that his anti-Reciprocity ideas must be abandoned and fruitful co-operation organized between Canada and her southern neighbors.

On Wednesday, the 15th, the Premier made his long promised statement on the railway question to a full House. He said that the Government would soon assume full control of the C.N.R. and would unite it with the Intercolonial and the National Transcontinental and other state railways to form a national system. He felt certain that the Grand Trunk Pacific inevitably would come into the country's hands and was of the opinion that the system must be rounded out by the acquisition of the old Grand Trunk which owing to its liabilities in connection with the G.T.P. is not in a happy position. He stated that the Government had made certain proposals to the Grand Trunk which had been rejected and met with counter demands of a very extravagant nature. Mr. Meighen and Mr. Calder, however, were going to London as a special committee

THE "LUXURIOUS" CANADIAN FARMER



When an Election occurs the politician comes to the farmer asking for his vote, and, as a rule, stating he understands their problems. We give an extract of a speech at Ottawa which will illustrate the absurd "understanding" some politicians have of a farmer. Farmers should get their OWN representatives in Parliament. Read also reference to same speech by "Our Parliamentary Correspondent" on page 7.

BRISTOL'S IDEA OF FARMING

Edmund Bristol, M.P. for Center Toronto, spoke as follows in the House of Commons:

"There was a long time in the history of this country when the farming com-

munity suffered and endured great hardships," admitted Mr. Bristol. "It was hard to get a boy to stay on the farm in those days, but now he no longer gets up early in the morning to milk the cows. He does not need to; he uses condensed milk. He does not require horses because his farm machinery is driven

by motor power. He goes to town in his automobile, and spends his winter in Los Angeles. I have been told by one man the situation was so bad that for lack of exercise some were erecting gymnasiums on their farms for exercising because manual labor was a thing of the past.—The Sun, Toronto.

to negotiate with the Grand Trunk's shareholders there.

The Government's policy seems to be to put in force the Drayton-Ackworth report which is a proper and popular course. Sir Robert also hinted that the time might come in the near future when the C.P.R. would also be nationalized but he was not prepared to take the step at present. The statement was well received and Sir Wilfrid in his reply concurred with most of the projects outlined but warned the Government as to its dealings with the Grand Trunk which in his opinion was loaded up with bad securities. A debate followed in the House in which Mr. R. L. Richardson continued the attack on the railway promoters which he began in the budget debate. He declared that Canada had been on a railway drunk for the last forty years and recited with chapter and verse an amazing story of the plunder which our railway magnates have extracted from the Canadian treasury. He protested against the idea of giv-

ing MacKenzie and Mann anything for their common stock and solemnly warned the Government to cease paying any attention to the bogey of the disturbance of Canadian credit which our financial mandarins always raise against any reform. As for the Grand Trunk, if it got into difficulties through the fault of its directors and managers, it had no right to expect anything but bare justice from the people of Canada. Mr. Nicholson of Algoma who was a C.P.R. engineer for 18 years gave an interesting account of some practical aspects of railway problems and favored the government proposals as did Mr. Nickle and Mr. Cockshutt.

Friday, May 16th, was chiefly taken up with a discussion on the celebrated Yukon election. Mr. Congdon, Liberal, had a majority of the civilian vote, but the soldiers' vote turned the tide in favor of Dr. Thompson, the Unionist. The soldiers' vote was polled before December 17th, but the Yukon being a deferred election, nominations did not

take place till the 29th December. Accordingly the soldiers voted before the candidates were known and Mr. Congdon claims that their votes were illegal. A committee of the House reported that the matter should be referred to the Supreme Court but the Government whipped up its members and rejected their report, preferring the decision of another House Committee. The latter will probably vote on purely party lines in favor of Dr. Thompson, but some Unionists supported the idea of the judicial reference which seems the correct course. There ought to be another day given for the title debate in accordance with the Premier's promise and Mr. Davis of Neepawa has very fittingly put down a motion for the discussion of the problem of imperial organization which will give the House an opportunity of instructing the Premier how to behave himself at the Imperial Conference for which he is soon due to leave.

—BYSTANDER.

The Non-Partisan Movement

METHODS USED TO OPPOSE LEAGUE IN MINNESOTA

The news that A. C. Townley, President of the Non-Partisan League in the States had been arrested, figured largely in the news items sent to the Press in Alberta from across the line. We now publish an article sent us by C. W. McDonnell, a member of the North Dakota Legislature, thinking that our readers would be glad to get the facts from one conversant with the difficulties the movement has to contend with. Farmers also will understand another farmer's viewpoint, and our columns are open to Mr. McDonnell at any time. We are sure that this and future articles will be appreciated. The writer's parents reside at Lougheed, Alberta.

Kensal, No. Dakota,
April 27th, 1918.

Mr. A. C. Townley, President of The National Non-Partisan League was arrested in Minnesota some time ago, accused of sedition. Not knowing just what kind of information you get about the happenings down

C. W. McDonnell this way, I am giving you an idea of the way things are moving here, or rather in Minnesota. In causing the arrest of Mr. Townley, and giving the big dailies and smaller fry that oppose us an opportunity to feature the arrest of Mr. Townley, the interests that are fighting the League have done all they ever expected to do. When he is acquitted, it will get about three lines at the bottom of the sporting page.

The situation in Minnesota is a peculiar one. Speaking against "Special Privilege" down there is about like praising President Wilson or Lloyd-George in Berlin, or making a prohibition speech in Milwaukee. Minnesota is the home of the largest flour milling interests in the world, and the steel trust has large holdings there. The lumber interests are the largest in the country, and there are large branches of the packing industry and several of the big railroads of the country have their headquarters there.

These interests saw what had been accomplished in North Dakota, and when organization work was started in Minnesota, they determined to break it up at any cost. First they tried starting "Leagues" of their own, all of course, strictly in the interest of the farmer. They all do love the farmer so, you know, and they want to help him so much, that they cannot consider for a moment the farmer helping himself. However, their fake leagues did not seem to have much drawing power. Somehow, they did not ring true. They were in the same plight they would like the real League, without a good leader.

They saw plainly there was no use talking against the principles of the League, for they were rapidly being put into effect by the National Government, giving greater efficiency and eliminating much waste.

Soon after this country entered the war, Mr. Townley made several speeches in which he strongly advocated the conscription of wealth, on about the same

plan as the conscription of men, and the practical confiscation of excess profits due to the war. The Twin City dailies raised the cry of "disloyalty" and soon every paper in the state opposed to the League was doing the same thing. Claimed that in urging conscription of wealth, Mr. Townley was opposing the sale of bonds. As a matter of fact, he urged the purchase of bonds at these very meetings.

There were many men holding some office such as sheriff or deputy, village marshal or something like that, who were not willing to show their patriotism by fighting Fritz in "No Man's Land," but if there were several of them together, would take a chance on beating a Non-Partisan speaker in the nearest approach to "No Man's Land" in the United States. These fellows were egged on by the opposition, and broke up many League meetings, and prevented the holding of others, in, the interest of "loyalty."

Governor Burnquist was appealed to, to allow the farmers to hold these meetings, as the Federal Constitution guarantees the right of peaceable assemblage. Mr. Burnquist side-stepped the issue, and told them that he would leave the question to the State's Attorneys of the various counties. A delegation of about one hundred farmers called at the State Capitol to insist that the Governor settle the question. After waiting nearly a day, they were admitted to the Governor's office. He told them that he would consult with the Attorney-General, but it would be a week or ten days before a decision could be given. But he expected the county attorneys to settle the question off hand!

This line of reasoning appealed to the fellows who were behind the fight on the League, and they determined to arrest Mr. Townley at any cost. The manager of the League had issued a pamphlet in June, 1917, giving the stand of the organization on various matters. This pamphlet had a wide circulation, copies had been sent to the Administration at Washington. No objection was made to its circulation by any one. The State's Attorney of Martin County, however, saved the nation by discovering that the pamphlet was seditious. As Mr. Townley was the employer of the manager, they arrested him in St. Paul. He gave bail, was released, and succeeded in getting the matter directly before the Supreme Court, and it will likely be settled some time this fall. Mr. Townley lost about three days from his speaking schedule, but the papers have been enabled to announce in big headlines, "TOWNLEY ARRESTED FOR SEDITION." There is no doubt that as soon as the people in general fully realize the injustice of the attacks made on the League, especially on the question of loyalty, there will be a big change in the feeling in Minnesota.

The prospects are bright for the League carrying Minnesota this fall. The opposition is already hedging against Mr. Burnquist's re-election. They say he may be defeated, but it will be a glorious defeat. Glorious is right, though not in the way they mean it. It will be about the same as it was with Admiral Cervera at the Battle of Santiago, in the Spanish war. As he was pulled into a boat, his last ship sunk, he said: "This is a sad, but a glorious day for Spain!" Do not believe his glory was much comfort to him. The first day it rains will give a little idea of the conditions in N. Dakota.

With best wishes for the work in Alberta,

C. W. McDONNELL.

NOTICE



In the Matter of the Enforcement of "The Motor Vehicle Act".

NOTICE is hereby given that the provisions of The Motor Vehicle Act are to be rigidly enforced. There is no defence for a person operating an unlicensed motor vehicle at this date, as immediate delivery of Automobile Number Plates may be obtained not only at the Departmental Office at Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, but also from the Clerks of the Court at Peace River, Wetaskiwin, Camrose, Stettler, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Bassano, Macleod and Taber, and from the Process Issuers at Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville, Lloydminster, Sedgewick, Hardisty, Coronation, Vermilion, Wainwright, Oyen and Youngstown.

The Motor Vehicle Inspectors of the Department have instructions to see that the Act is strictly enforced in its entirety.

Dated at Edmonton this 11th day of April, A.D. 1918.

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

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THE ONWARD MARCH

By Mrs. L. C. McKinney, M.L.A.



The activities of the past two weeks cannot be classified as parliamentary duties, yet they may be of interest to some of our readers. As doubtless you all know, I still retain my office as president of the Provincial W.C.T.U., and in this capacity I have been attending the district conventions at Claresholm, Vegreville and Sedgewick, with a Sunday at Vermillion, also in the interests of this work.

This brings us in touch with all forms of national activity at the present time, with the movement for increased production, food conservation, Red Cross work, plans for returned soldiers, as well as with the heartaches of the mothers whose lads are just going, and everywhere the same spirit is manifested and our women are determined to do their best. The stress of war in all lines seems to prove more conclusively the fact many of us have recognised for a long time, and that is that the liquor traffic must be recognised as a national enemy, no matter what phase of the great war we are considering, whether it be greater production or conservation, or the welfare of the dear ones who must live in military camps, and there seems a more determined spirit than ever to give no quarter until this enemy is driven from our borders.

In studying the progress of the temperance movement, I have stumbled upon one fact that is of supreme importance and that gives great encouragement in our own Non-Partisan work at this time. This fact is noted in the history of all movements that have been worth while. The work at the first was begun by very ordinary people in a very ordinary way. No one saw the end from the beginning, or felt that he had a complete solution for the problem. But there were individuals who had the courage of their convictions, and were willing to stand firm for what they believed was right, in the face of opposition and criticism, until the public conscience became aroused and the movement assumed an aspect that claimed the attention of an ever increasing number of high-minded citizens, and ultimate victory was assured. Neither the temperance movement nor the issues espoused by the Non-Partisan League have yet reached their final triumph. But both are in the line of human progress, and who can stay their onward march?

If we who remain at home are to adequately support the splendid boys we are sending to the front it is necessary that we not only continue our direct war activities but that we guard the homeland from enemies that are threatening us here, enemies indeed which have already gained a foothold, but which must be driven out and thus make Canada a safe place for democracy to dwell in.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Remember: "Brevity is the soul of wit." We cannot undertake to publish letters unless thine are short and to the point, and bear the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for our own information.

* * *

"A FARMER'S APPRECIATION"

Strathmore, Alta.

Editor Alberta Non-Partisan.

Dear Sir:

I do like the Non-Partisan. It seems to me that it should be an irresistible apostle of matters social and political, as well as economic, to all those who have started to think for themselves along these lines.

I believe with you in true democracy.

"D. F. B."

* * *

EXCELLENT!

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN.

Dear Sir:—

Enclosed find my cheque for renewal of your excellent publication. I consider the issue of April 26th worth the whole year's subscription price.

May your shadow never grow less.

Yours very truly,

—L. U. FOWLER.

* * *

THE WOMAN VOTER

In a grand house sit two schemers, envious,
greedy, grey,
Who for long years have waxed fat, upon
the country's pay.
It may have been, in time gone by, they
served the country's need,
But patronage, graft and plunder, seems
now their only creed.

The first of these is Old John Grit, feeble,
flabby, tame,
Who rode the "Premier" horse until the
beast went lame,
But now he sits aside, and with sorrow
scans the scene,
The poor beast is by Tory Bill, of hide and
all, plucked clean.

He sits and waits and wonders, what artful
scheme to lay,
That would give him back the glory of his
happy yesterday;
What bait to give the people, that would
wrest from them their vote
Which would place him, safe and comfy,
inside the Premier coat.

But Tory Bill, so gaunt and grey, and
watery of eye,
Looks up from his dark scheming and asks
the reason why,
Old John Grit should replace him? (Got
some new trick to try?)

He says, "Now just be calm, I'll pull thro
safe in time
Don't jerk me up too short, why I'm really
in my prime:
I like this place, the clink of gold, and titles,
very well
So just sit tight and shut your eyes and I'll
land you safe in—(heaven?)

Between these two old rascals it's hard our
choice to cast—
Their day is done, their race is run, their
sun is setting fast.
Let's dig a grave, ten fathoms deep, and
bury them head and heel,
And boost for the NON-PARTISAN to serve
the common weal.

—ALBERTA CUNDAL.



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My Impressions of the Legislature

By Alex. Ross, M.L.A.

OPENING CEREMONIES

It was with a certain amount of trepidation that I joined that strange and cosmopolitan crowd called the members of the Alberta Legislature on the eventful morning of the 7th, the first day of my first session as a member of that body. I had no reason to be alarmed. Was I not representing that unknown quantity called Labor? Had I not spent my life in an endeavor to represent it? But then all was strange. I missed the well known faces of my Calgary confreres and the palatial surroundings of the Calgary Labor Temple.

We were all invited to the Chambers of the Lieutenant-Governor to sign the Roll Call, also to take an oath that we would faithfully discharge our duties as Legislators, etc. The Lieutenant-Governor, as usual, failed to be there at the appointed time—he was never known to be on time, that is on business. While waiting for this important gentleman to make his appearance, we spent the time getting acquainted with one another and indulging in reminiscences, happy or otherwise, of the election that decided our fate as to whether we would be politicians or not. Judging by the number of enquiries as to what the opening ceremonies were, one concluded that there were a large number of new members present.

The Lieutenant-Governor and his trusty servant finally arrived and, without making any apology for being late, proceeded to make us swear that we would do our duty. This we all did, some with more vigor than others.

How many ever thought of that pledge again? I always understood that I was elected for that purpose and I knew that no matter how many pledges I took, my constituents were made up of those elements who would not hesitate to remind me at all times, should I be remiss in my duty. Then why a pledge? Probably the other members were not in the happy position of being supported by such constituents; in that case a pledge may be necessary. But I digress.

The ceremony being over many of the gallants, old and young, paid homage to the lady members. This was truly a great occasion. The first lady members to be elected to a constituent assembly under the British flag, yet old Britain has boasted of her democracy for years. It fell to the lot of a Western province in her youngest colony to lead the way to a greater democracy—to give equal political rights—to elect the first women representatives. Here they were and not a historian to describe the scene. I do not suggest that this was the reason why the male members wore their best smile when introduced by Captain Bob, who performed the necessary with his usual eclat.

Senator Michener, who was selected as a fitting stable companion for Bill Harmer, was the recipient of congratulations galore. He also signed the roll call, while someone whispered that the reason why the Senator signed the book was in order that he might claim his sessional indemnity of fifteen hundred dollars. In this I discovered that even politicians are suspicious of one another. I always knew that the people were suspicious of the politician. I forgot for the moment that we were living in an age of suspicion.

Three o'clock was the time arranged for the opening of the Legislature. A great many curious and interested spectators thronged the floor of the Assembly Hall; seats were at a premium; the galleries were well filled; evidently many of Edmonton's citizens regarded this as an event of the season. More interest was shown this year than usual, a new Premier was to take his place in the House that day, a new leader of the Opposition, both farmers, also Independents for the first time, soldier representatives, Non Partisans and Labor. A new era in provincial politics had arrived. Doubtless many were the speculations as to how it would be possible to have decent legislation without the placid, controlling influence of a Sifton or the ponderous criticism of a Tweedie.

Our reverie was broken by the sudden appearance of the Sergeant-at-Arms (a gentleman wearing a smart fitting uniform, who is sometimes mistaken for the Premier—by visitors.) He announced in unmistakable accent that the Lieutenant-Governor had arrived. Sure enough, he had arrived, a little late as usual, all decked up in gold braid, wearing a Napoleon hat, which looked as if it wasn't altogether sure of its bearings. It jogged around on his head as if it wanted to fall off. His bodyguard consisted of five or six stalwart officers, imported from Calgary, who escorted him to the Speaker's chair. Arriving at his destination, he announced he would not do a thing until a Speaker was elected. The Premier moved that Mr. Fisher be elected, which was done without a dissentient voice being heard, a democratic election indeed.

Mr. Fisher gets twenty-five hundred dollars a year besides his sessional indemnity of fifteen hundred dollars. The extra salary is not a reward for the services he renders but rather regarded as "pin money" or "velvet." He, of course, is supposed to treat his friends to a supper and always have a good supply of cigars on hand, which he did. Mr. Fisher duly ensconced in his chair, which looked very uncomfortable, the Lieutenant-Governor read the speech from the Throne.

The speech gave little indication of legislation that might be expected, but contained a glaring oversight. He commenced by saying, Gentlemen, forgetting there were lady members present. Probably it was the stenographer's fault, who prepared the speech; this has yet to be settled. He gave us his blessing, we sang the National Anthem, then he departed and left us to our fate. Many were the covetous eyes cast on the departing Governor. His is evidently the best job the patronage list contains, and next to a shell contract, probably the most profitable.

(Continued in next issue)

* * *

BRITAIN'S FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY.

The Lichnowsky revelations have set Lord Grey's star once more very high—higher than ever—in the European heavens. When will his holiday come to an end? The war still continues. In an alternative Government he ought surely to be prominent indeed, if Mr. Asquith is not the next Prime Minister then Lord Grey ought to be.—*The New Statesman*.

PANTAGES

WEEK OF MAY 27TH

The Hoosier Girl

Who's Your Girl?

and

OTHER FEATURES

ALLEN THEATRE

Monday

Tuesday

MARGUERITE CLARK

IN

"RICH MAN POOR MAN"

Wednesday

Thursday

Elsie Ferguson

IN

"THE LIE"

LIFE AND WORK

SIGNS OF THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER

Article III

"Party Politics and The New Social Order"

It has been said that there is no heresy in savagery. Savages conform en masse to the settled opinions of the tribe, and not until the race advances, and the individual mind grows strong enough to enquire into the causes of things do we find heretics and traitors. These terms have been applied to the fearless thinkers of the past, those who thought their way through religion were heretics and those who saw through the camouflage of autocracy were called traitors. But in these days we see that heresy is truth in the making, and although the man who dares to move further away from savagery by thinking for himself is still maligned, persecuted and imprisoned, yet he takes courage in the profound conviction that this is the price to be paid for the establishment of truth in every age.

Creedal religion, and party politics are relics of savagery in as much as they try to make all people conform to one way of thinking. No doubt the idea underlying this attempt is that of Unity, and the primitive mind naturally thinks that diversity of opinion is the end of unity. Yet it is as clear as day to those who look beneath the surface of things that unity may result from the greatest diversity. The broad general principle of human well-being, for instance, may unite a whole nation, although there may be much difference of opinion as to how human wellbeing may be best brought about. But the very fact that there are differences of opinion about this matter will ultimately lead to the best way, while if all unhesitatingly accept one way and pursue it, that might be the worst way. We must experiment in new ways in order to find the best way, and to do this there must be difference of opinion.

The new political movements that are arising both in Canada and other countries are evidence that we are moving to a new order of things. This does not mean that the ultimate aim is different. We may safely grant that the ultimate aim of every political and economic system is to secure the maximum state of well-being for all, only the ways chosen are not the best ways to accomplish the purpose for which they were chosen. On the contrary the ways

and means often prove to defeat the original purpose.

Take as an example our party system of government. It has served its purpose in a crude way by giving some kind of government, but it has led to unspeakable corruption, to wide differences without reason, to privileges incompatible with the well-being of all, and to general inefficiency.

Party politics has almost reached the stage of a cult or fetish. Men have been more faithful to their political beliefs than they have to religious beliefs proper. They have followed it with a sort of blind awe irrespective of the unreasonableness or immorality of its demands. Neither reason nor morality counts for anything when the mind has been thus chained to a fetish, political or otherwise. To perpetuate a political fetish such as party politics has become in Canada, is to penalize the intelligence, and lead the body politic to inevitable destruction.

The tendency as shown by the new political organizations is Non-Partisan. That is a government composed of true representatives of the people. No matter what the people may desire, or how different their desires may be, a parliament should be a true reflection of these desires. On all issues the majority vote will decide the policy of a government in the future, instead of finding men and fitting them to a policy. Representatives will then be elected on issues instead of by party habit, and will vote at the command of his reason and conscience instead of at the persuasion of a party whip. Parliamentary debate will then mean something, it will be alive, not the dead farce that it now is. These are the tendencies of the hour, and the signs of the future but there are many difficulties in the way. We must discover the best way of overcoming the difficulties and of promoting the cause of Democracy.

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"MY TRIP WEST"

By Rev. W. Ivens, Winnipeg
The West Is Ripe and Ready for a Forward Move—

A two weeks' trip through the wild and woolly west has convinced me that—

"The time is ripe, and rotten ripe for change. Then let it come, I have no dread of what Is called for by the instinct of mankind."

In order that the cities of the west may more easily get in touch with each other I will devote a short paragraph to each place I visited and give one or more names that will help to get the leaders in touch with each other. Brandon First—

Here the industrial movement has elements of life, but needs vigor. J. H. Skene, 133 Victoria Avenue, engineered the meeting which proved better than the locals expected, proving in itself the readiness for action. Ald. Grantham and President Baker, of the Trades Council, will yet reinvigorate the cause. Then Regina—

Things should move in Regina with a trio like Ald. Perry, F. Kinsella, 2367 Edward Street, and A. E. Conrad, 1365 Athol Avenue. The locals have a good hall and though our meeting was not big yet the spirit was excellent.

And Moose Jaw—

A hearty welcome "got" me in the right place. There is something in the generous wholeheartedness of Bill Watson, 256 Ominick Street, Jimmy Somerville, 803 Main Street, Ald. Andrews, and Baker on the cabstand, that gives abundant hope for the future.

At Swift Current—

Everyone must first visit J. G. Laycock's drug store and get linked up with the progressives right away. There's Geo. Heald, of the Non-Partisan League, D. J. Sykes, M.L.A., and Rev. Speller, who is the pusher for the Forum. The spirit of the whole bunch was simply contagious.

Medicine Hat—

No one can blame me if I "gas" about "The Hat". I heard nothing but "gas" while there. Felt it too. It cooked my meals, lighted the streets all day, and heated the house where I stayed. I learnt too, that the secret of the wealth of the Ocillie Milling Co. is built on "gas". When one forgets the "gas" he gets to the real thing. This is found in J. Fawcett and B. W. Bellamy. The retail clerks problem was alive and our meeting was good. There will be a strong bunch of the living tree at this point when the workers are fully organized for political action.

Calgary Next—

Where "Bill" Irvine is driving the whole city to do... deliverance is the word. Calgary is surely alive and I had a great week-end. The Forum on Sunday was fine and about the best in Canada. If the speaker on the platform ever fails there is always a great time from the floor of the house, no hesitation is displayed in readiness to question or in three-minute speeches. It is a well managed institution, meets in the Grand theater, the best in the city, has a good balance in funds, and is unique in having a wide latitude of speakers and very di-

verse are the subjects discussed. It has accomplished a great amount of educative work and is known as "The Parliament of the Proletariat."

On May 26th our friend, F. J. Dixon, from Centre Winnipeg, is to wind up the season on the subject of "The Canadian Commonwealth." I am sure Winnipeg can learn from Calgary in having a good central Forum.

On Monday night at the Labor Temple another good audience discussed intelligently the future of Labor in Canada. Calgary will be the center of a strong Labor Party in Alberta. Alex. Ross, we predict, will be but the first of many workers that will reach the local legislature. Then the Non-Partisan League has two good members in Mrs. McKinney and Jas. Weir, and the success of the movement tells the story of indomitable energy and its influence for good in politics will be immeasurable. Among the new electorate, Mesdames Carson, Lewis, Grérette and McWilliams, and the Misses Romanes, Patterson and Coutts are the advance guard of legions.

At Edmonton—

It was colder—just a little. The water too felt cold. I couldn't understand it either for Rev. F. E. Mercer, 12842 68th Street, was a live wire, and Alf. Farmilo was full of the goods. We had a very good meeting. The men struck me as being full of vitality and earnestness, yet there was something lacking. Rev. Mercer, secretary of the Labor Representation League, is an enthusiast and eminently practical, and I have great hopes the best is yet to come.

Saskatoon—

Saskatoon has a trio of good men, D. England, secretary of the Trades Council, President Lathey, 1434 D Street, and John J. McGrath, 1007 Melrose Avenue. There are others, too, who are ready for action. While the meeting was not large it was full of vitality. They have a fine city and their labor temple is the place where events of prime importance will be worked out in the future. The leaven is working.

Yorkton—

The last place was Yorkton. And such a place. The trees were not yet in leaf, yet it seemed as though they were in full leaf, the flowers blooming, and the gardens full of life. If you ask why you will just have to go and meet the crew that is in charge of the ship of state. Some crew. R. Denovan is a star newspaper editor. Dr. J. H. Brass is a dentist that removes all decay from the body politics as well as from the jaws of death. R. H. Knox registers the progress made by J. H. M. Benyon in his effort to spread truth as contained in The Voice. Malcolm McLean has to go to the front so Walkinshaw will have to do two men's work in the matter of reform, and maybe Mrs. Tedford and her legions will defeat the foe here. In any case they are all on the job.

Their "Forum" is a real live affair. Radical and progressive thought is their stock in trade. Long may they thrive and prosper.

* * *

The time is ripe for progress. Let us form a workers' political party now and we shall have a chance to try out our theories after the next Federal election. It is ours to prepare and dare for the great adventure.

"Give us men to match our mountains,

Give us men to match our plains,
Men with empires in their thinking,
And new eras in their brain."

The Amusement Tax Act



To take Effect on,
from and after May
1st, 1918

Every person attending an exhibition, performance or entertainment at a place of amusement to which an entrance or admission fee is charged shall on each admission thereto pay an amusement tax at the following rates:

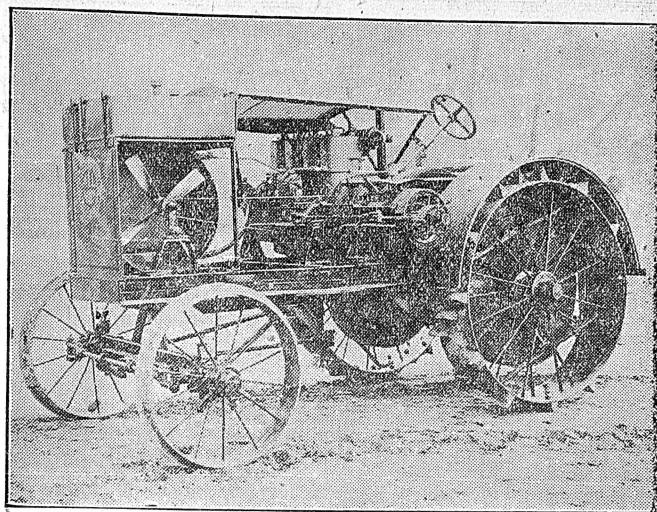
- (1) When the price of admission is from 10c to 20c inclusive, a tax of 1c.
 - (2) When the price of admission is more than 20c and not more than 75c, a tax of 2½c.
 - (3) When the price of admission is more than 75c and not more than \$1.00 a tax of 5c.
 - (4) When the price of admission is more than \$1.00 but not more than \$2.00, a tax of 10c.
 - (5) When the price of admission is more than \$1.00 but not more than \$2.00, a tax of 10c.
 - (5) When the price of admission is more than \$2.00, a tax of 25c.
 - (6) A tax of 25c shall be paid by every person attending any boxing bouts or contests.
 - (7) Where admission is given by pass or complimentary tickets a tax shall be payable at the highest rate charged for the performance to which admission is granted.

PENALTIES

Every person who, without having previously paid the tax provided by this Act, enters a place of amusement in the province for the purpose of attending an exhibition, performance, entertainment or game shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 for each offence, and in default of the payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for not more than six months.

Every owner of a place of amusement and every employee of an owner of a place of amusement who permits or authorizes or is a party or privy to the admission of any person to a place of amusement for the purpose of attending an exhibition, performance, entertainment or game there-in without payment of the tax provided for by this Act, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than \$25.00, nor more than \$200.00 for each offence, and, in default of payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for not more than six months.

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.



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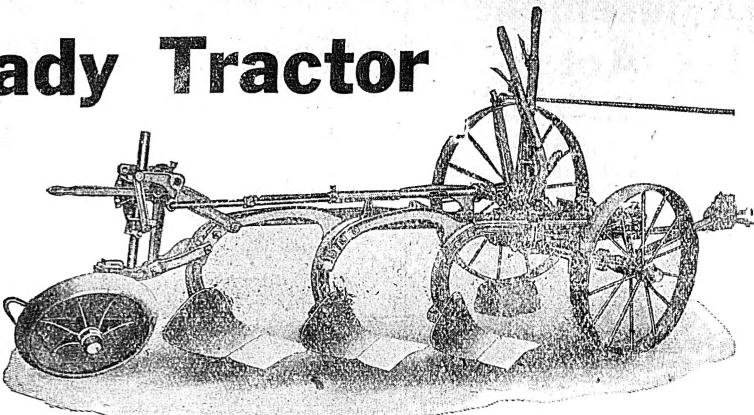
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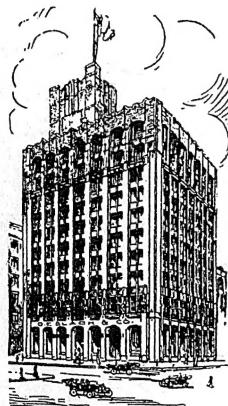
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